

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON DECEMBER 1, 2020 AT 6:00
P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: **Brenda Holt, Chair, District 4**
 Dr. Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, Vice Chair, District 2
 Eric Hinson, District 1
 Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
 Ronterious “Ron” Green, District 5
 Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
 Dr. Henry Grant, Interim County Administrator
 Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
 Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk

INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holt welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:01 pm, asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag. She then called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Grant commented he would like to add 9a Confirmation of Planning Commissioners for Commission District 4 and pull Item 7 – Re-location of the Social Security Office in Gadsden County and 9-Purchase of 2 Frazer Infectious Disease Ambulances and 1 Frazer UCV Command Rescue Unit.

Mr. Knowles stated he would like to add settlement to the Consent Agenda as Item 3a and there was no fiscal impact to the County.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked to pull the item from the Consent Agenda and add as 9b so it could be explained.

**COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED AND ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION AS TO WHY ITEMS 7 AND 9 WERE PULLED FROM THE AGENDA.
COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND.**

Dr. Grant said Item 7 was pulled for insufficient information and Item 9 was pulled at the request of the Chair. Chair Holt said she asked for Item 9 to be pulled because there was more information needed; they just bought two and they needed to look at the line item and how it would be funded.

Commissioner Viegbesie said he thought they were purchasing four and decided to purchase 2 then and now was purchasing two more. He asked if this was being pulled so they could go back and purchase them with CARES Act money because this was something they could have purchased with that money.

Mr. Dixon said this would not be purchased with CARES Act money the way the others were purchased. He said he was not clear in where the line item was and wanted to make sure and this could come back at the next meeting when he was clear in where this money would be coming from.

Commissioner Viegbesie said the item was being pulled for clarity since it was the Administrator's first day and he wanted an understanding of what was going on and that made more sense to him.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND APPEARANCES

Former County Commissioner Gene Morgan was present and the Board presented a plaque to him for his services to the community as a County Commissioner since November 2008.

CONSENT

CHAIR HOLT ASKED FOR A MOTION FOR THE CONSENT AGENDA.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

1. **Ratification Memo**
2. **Approval of the 2021 BOCC Meeting Calendar**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - **August 17, 2020**
 - **August 20, 2020**
 - **August 28, 2020**
 - **September 4, 2020**

ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Due to COVID-19 and the efforts of Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners to continue the practice of social distancing, Commissioners want to continue to hear from citizens under the Citizens Requesting to be Heard section of the agenda.

If citizens have any questions, comments or concerns, please email CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov and anticipate receiving a response within 48 hours.

Chair Holt read an email aloud from First Lady Casey DeSantis thanking the Commission for their thoughtful recognition of the Veteran population in the County.

Chair Holt then read aloud an email from Shelia Shellman.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. FINAL PUBLIC HEARING-Notice of Proposed Tax Increase

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said they were holding a new Millage and Budget public hearing as required by Florida Department of Revenue Truth in Millage Section. He explained on November 18, 2020, the County received a letter stating the issue and steps to

correct the issue within 15 days. He said this was the final piece of the TRIM requirement after which all documents would be sent to DOR and Gadsden County would be in compliance. He added the calculated roll-back millage rate, the property tax rate, generates the same amount of property tax revenue as last year was 8.7408 mills. The current year proposed rate is 8.9064; as a percent of change of roll-back rate was 1.89% more than the rolled-back rate. He said the fiscal year 2020/2021 tentative budget has been formulated based on maintaining the current County-wide property tax rate of 8.9064 mills. He said Staff was recommending a motion for the adoption of Resolution 2020-073 and proposed millage rate from 8.9064 mills for fiscal year 2020/2021. He said there needed to be a second motion for the adoption of Resolution 2020-074 and the adoption of the tentative budget for fiscal year 2020/2021 at \$51,5659,377.

Chair Holt clarified the motions needed.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if they would be taking the Resolutions separately and she responded yes.

Chair Holt asked if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

COMMISSIONER NESMITH MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT 2020-073 AND COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE THE SECOND.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked the Administrator if he was hearing the concerns that were expressed had been taken care of and the Administrator stated yes.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

Chair Holt then asked if there were any comments for Resolution 2020-074 and there were none.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-074 REGARDING THE FISCAL COUNTY-WIDE BUDGET OF \$51,569,377 AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

GENERAL BUSINESS

5. Appointments/Reappointments to The Small County Coalition Board of Directors

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval to appoint/reappoint two representatives from the County Commission and to identify a County staff person to serve as the County Liaison. He said Staff recommendation was Option 3.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION THAT COMMISSIONER HOLT AND COMMISSIONER HINSON BE RETAINED AS THE COUNTY'S REPRESENTATIVE AND THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, ED DIXON, BE THE COUNTY'S LIAISON. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

6. Commission Appointments to The Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds Committee Commission

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and stated it was for Board approval to appoint one Commissioner to serve on the Committee to oversee the Inmate Commissary and Welfare Funds. He stated staff recommendation was Option 1.

Commissioner Nesmith volunteered to serve.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER NESMITH AND COMMISSIONER GREEN MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

7. Re Location of the Social Security Office in Gadsden County

Item Pulled

8. New Gadsden County Multipurpose Facility Change Order

Dr. Grant introduced the above item and said it was for Board approval of Change Order Two created to credit the unused funds back to the County from the general contractor's construction contract.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AND COMMISSIONER HINSON MADE THE SECOND. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

9. Purchase of 2 Frazer Infectious Disease Ambulances and 1 Frazer UCV Command Rescue Unit

Item Pulled

9a Confirmation of Planning Commissioners for Commission Districts Four

Dr. Grant Introduced the above item and said it was Board consideration to confirm two new Planning Commissioners for the Planning Commission, Mr. Charles Hayes and Mr. Anthony Powell, to represent District 4.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER NESMITH, THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE OPTION 1.

9b Shade Meeting

Mr. Knowles explained the above matter and there was no fiscal impact to the County.

COMMISSIONER VIEGBESIE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ATTORNEY'S REQUEST AND CHAIR HOLT MADE THE SECOND. COMMISSIONER NESMITH HAD A QUESTION.

Commissioner NeSmith asked about the outside counsel and Mr. Knowles explained.

CHAIR HOLT CALLED FOR THE VOTE. THE BOARD VOTED 5-0 BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE.

CLERK OF COURT

10. Updates

There was nothing to report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

11. Updates

There was nothing to report.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

12. Updates

There was nothing to report.

DISCUSSION ITEMS BY COMMISSIONERS

13. Report and Discussion of Public Issues

Commissioner Eric Hinson, District 1

Commissioner Hinson said he had few residents that had heartburn about the closing of (the County) office during the holidays (concerning CARES and Small Business) and asked if the deadline could be extended a few more days because they were unable to procure the funding.

Dr. Grant said that was impossible because in order to secure the balance of the 55%, everything had to be uploaded and turned in to FDEM by December 3rd.

Commissioner Hinson asked if they could be given a couple more days and not 3 days. Chair Holt said all the documentation had to be turned in. He said this did not relate to what Dr. Grant said; this was just the application for them to apply.

Chair Holt said because if they did the draw-down, from what she was understanding, it went into their General Fund. Once it was there, you could not apply for CARES Act money, it could not have CARES Act money on the application because the CARES Act money would have already been drawn-down. She said once there, they could make the decision, if there was any money left, to open back up.

Commissioner Hinson said this was for the deadline, it was a decision that the Board made for the deadline so it was just a deadline for applications and had nothing to do with the funding source.

Commissioner Hinson said he called Dr. Grant last night, he has a constituent in their 80's and the issue was housing. He thanked the Board for reaching out trying to find as much money as they could. He added that a few years ago, they took emergency money out and asked that be put back on the Agenda and be addressed. He asked that it be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting and was going to vote for \$25,000 per district.

Chair Holt said she did not think that would be a concern; she wanted SHIP to come do a report on what they were doing to give them a better idea of what the Commissioners needed to do.

Commissioner Viegbesie said Commissioner Hinson touched on what he was going to mention.

Commissioner Kimblin NeSmith, District 3

Commissioner NeSmith thanked Interim Grant and staff; there was debris on Lincoln Drive and the debris had been removed and thanked Public Works for that.

Commissioner Brenda Holt, District 4

Chair Holt told Mr. Dixon she wanted to have 4:00 workshops before the regular meetings to give them opportunities to ask questions and to look at setting goals.

She asked to see goals and objectives from previous workshops that were already set.

She showed a Proclamation for Mrs. Maggie S. King for her 100th birthday.

Commissioner Viegbesie said during the retreat, Commissioners developed a Mission Statement that was on the website and he read that aloud.

Dr. Grant said in connection with the 4:00 briefing meeting, for the next two meetings there were workshops already scheduled before the meeting; one was for the Sheriff's Department Recruitment and Retention Plan and the other was for the Comprehensive Plan. Chair Holt said they could consider that, for them to have a little more discussion.

Dr. Grant said the second meeting in January was on how to fund the rural fire departments.

Chair Holt said they may have to start the pre-meetings at 3:00 p.m. then roll into the other workshops and then the meeting.

Commissioner Hinson asked about CBOR and Chair Holt said it needed to go back to Planning.

Mr. Knowles explained the current Land Development Code required that any change to the Citizens Bill of Rights had to go through two legislative hearings, the first had to be through the Planning Commission and that was scheduled and then could be brought back to the Board for either ratification of the decision of the Planning Commission or further action by the Board.

Commissioner NeSmith said he thought they discussed last week about developing their plan for the County Administrator and Chair Holt said that was what they were talking about and it would be brought back.

Commissioner Green said the celebration for Mother King would be December 6th at 2:00 p.m.; the line-up was at Shelfer and Elm Street, and they were encouraging all participants to stay in their cars and it would be a drive-by celebration.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked that the information be emailed to the Commissioners so everyone would have the dates on their calendars.

Commissioner Ronterious Green, District 5

Commissioner Green thanked the County for assisting them during his Grandmother's funeral and all the prayers.

Also, he was not present tonight because he just arrived for the FL Assn of Counties conference that was scheduled to begin in the morning.

Mr. Dixon asked that commissioners contact staff as he would like to have a standing meeting with each of the Commissioners before the Tuesday meetings.

Commissioner Viegbesie asked if that meant they would have the meeting books ready a week ahead? Mr. Dixon replied yes.

Commissioner Anthony “Dr. V” Viegbesie, District 2

Commissioner Viegbesie had no comments.

Receipt and File

UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOTION TO ADJOURN

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, CHAIR HOLT DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:50 P.M.

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

BRENDA A. HOLT, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk